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STATE OF ARIZONA

DEPT. OF INSURANCE BY

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

In the Matter of:

) Docket No. 01A-093-INS
) CONSENT ORDER

GUIDEONE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

NAIC #15032;

Respondent

Examiners for the Department of Insurance (the "Department") conducted a market conduct examination of GuideOne Mutual Insurance Company ("GuideOne"). The Report of Examination of the Market Conduct Affairs of GuideOne dated June 9, 2000 alleges that GuideOne has violated A.R.S. §§20-385, 20-400.01, 20-443, 20-461,

GuideOne wishes to resolve this matter without formal proceedings, admits that the following Findings of Fact are true, and consents to the entry of the following Conclusions of Law and Order.

20-466.03, 20-1632.01, 20-1674, 20-1677, 20-1678, and A.A.C. R20-6-801.

# **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- GuideOne is authorized to transact property and casualty insurance pursuant to a Certificate of Authority issued by the Director.
- 2. The Examiners were authorized by the Director to conduct a market conduct examination of GuideOne. The on-site examination covered the time period from January 1, 1998 through December 31, 1999, and was concluded on June 9, 2000. Based on the findings, the Examiners prepared the "Report of Examination of the Market Conduct Affairs of GuideOne Mutual Insurance Company" dated June 9, 2000.
  - 3. The Examiners reviewed 50 of 357 business automobile policy files issued

during the time frame of the examination and found as follows:

- a. GuideOne applied an incorrect classification to the vehicle when rating four policies
- b. GuideOne applied incorrect territory codes in the rating of four policies.
- c. GuideOne failed to charge a premium for uninsured motorist coverage on one policy.
- 4. The Examiners reviewed 50 of 641 commercial package policy files issued or renewed during the time frame of the examination and found as follows:
- a. GuideOne failed to provide a 60-day notice of premium increase on 38 policies.
  - b. GuideOne applied an incorrect protection class to four policies.
- c. GuideOne supporting documentation in two policy files to justify the difference of the Individual Risk Premium Modification (IRPM) was different than the IRPM that was incorrectly applied by the Company.
- d. GuideOne failed to have any documentation in three policy files linking support to justify the IRPM that was applied by the Company.
- e. GuideOne failed to include adequate documentation in 12 policy files linking the support to justify the IRPM that was applied by the Company.
- 5. The Examiners reviewed 44 of 44 personal automobile policy files canceled during the time frame of the examination and found as follows:
- a. GuideOne failed to provide the seven-day grace period to eight insureds.
- b. GuideOne failed to advise 19 policyholders of the right to complain to the Director of the insurer's action within ten days after receipt of the cancellation

notice by the insured.

- c. GuideOne failed to adhere to the provisions of 19 policies by canceling policies inconsistently with the cancellation provisions of the policies.
- d. GuideOne failed to send the final cancellation notice after the grace period, effective on the date of cancellation, to ten insureds who were canceled mid-term for nonpayment of premium.
- 6. The Examiners reviewed 50 of 69 business automobile policies that were either canceled or nonrenewed during the time frame of the examination and found as follows:
- a. GuideOne's reason for nonrenewal of six policy files was not consistent with the language in the policy for nonrenewal.
- b. GuideOne failed to provide a seven-day grace period for nonpayment of the premium to ten insureds, as required by the provisions of the policy.
- 7. The Examiners reviewed 50 of 84 commercial package and commercial umbrella policy files that were canceled during the time frame of the examination and found that GuideOne failed to provide evidence that the Notice of Cancellation for nonpayment of premium was sent by certified mail to three insureds.
- 8. The Examiners reviewed all of the Company's claim files and found that GuideOne failed to include a fraud warning statement on any of its claims forms.
- 9. The Examiners reviewed four of four first party automobile total loss claim files settled during the time frame of the examination and found that GuideOne failed to pay all sales taxes and fees in the settlement of two claims.
- 10. GuideOne's failure to issue business automobile and commercial package policies according to the terms of its filed rates and rules resulted in 21 insureds being overcharged a total of \$2,349.00. GuideOne's failure to pay all the required sales

taxes and fees resulted in two insureds being underpaid a total of \$1,239.50 for first-party automobile total loss settlements. GuideOne has reimbursed the two insureds for the underpayments, plus \$114.61 in interest.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. GuideOne violated A.R.S. §§20-385(A) and 20-400.01(A) by applying incorrect classifications, incorrect territories and failing to charge a premium for uninsured motorist coverage on business automobile policies and by applying incorrect protection classes on commercial package policies.
- 2. GuideOne violated A.R.S. §20-1677(A) by failing to provide insureds a 60-day notice of premium increase on commercial package policies.
- 3. GuideOne violated A.R.S. §20-400.01(A) and (B) by misapplication of IRPM's and lack of documentation justifying the IRPM, pursuant to its Individual Risk Premium Modification Plan on commercial package policies.
- 4. GuideOne violated A.R.S. §20-1632.01(A) by failing to provide the seven day grace period to personal automobile insureds during which time the policy would remain in force without penalty when canceling personal automobile policies.
- 5. GuideOne violated A.R.S. §20-1632.01(B) by failing to advise insureds of the right to complain to the Director of the insurer's action within ten days after receipt of the cancellation notice by the insured and by failing to send the cancellation notice after the grace period effective on the date of cancellation when canceling personal automobile policies.
- 6. GuideOne violated A.R.S. §20-443(1) by failing to adhere to the provisions of issued business and personal automobile polices.
- 7. GuideOne violated A.R.S. §§20-1674(A) and 20-1678 by failing to provide evidence that the Notice of Cancellation of commercial package and commercial

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umbrella policies were sent by certified mail to the insured for nonpayment of premium.

- 8. GuideOne violated A.R.S. §20-466.03 by failing to include any fraud warning statement on its claims forms.
- 9. GuideOne violated A.A.C. R20-6-801(H)(1)(b) and A.R.S. §20-461(A)(6) by failing to pay first party total loss claimants the full amount of applicable taxes and other fees incident to transfer of evidence of ownership of comparable automobiles.
- 10. Pursuant to A.R.S. §§20-220 and 20-456, grounds exist for the entry of the following Order.

### <u>ORDER</u>

### IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- 1. GuideOne shall cease and desist from:
- a. Failing to adhere to its filed personal automobile and commercial lines rates, rating plans, rules and underwriting guidelines.
- b. Failing to provide 60 days notice of premium increases on commercial package policies.
- c. Failing to include documentation in rating files supporting any deviations from the filed commercial package policy rates.
- d. Failing to advise policyholders of the right to complain to the Director within 10 days of receipt of the insurer's cancellation of personal automobile policies.
- e. Failing to comply with the stated policy provisions for nonrenewal and cancellations on all policies.
- f. Failing to send final cancellation notices after the grace period, effective on the date of cancellation of personal automobile policies.
- g. Failing to mail cancellation notices of commercial package and commercial umbrella policies by certified mail.

- h. Failing to include the required fraud warning on claim forms.
- i. Failing to pay all first party automobile total loss claimants all applicable taxes, license fees and other fees incident to transfer of evidence of ownership of comparable automobiles.
- 2. Within 90 days of the filed date of this Order, GuideOne shall submit to the Arizona Department of Insurance, for approval, evidence that corrections have been implemented and communicated to the appropriate personnel regarding all of the items mentioned in paragraph 1 of the Order section of this Consent Order. Evidence of corrective action and communication thereof includes, but is not limited to memos, bulletins, E-mails, correspondence, procedures manuals, print screens and training materials:
- 3. Within 90 days of the filed date of this Order, GuideOne shall pay \$21.00 to the insured for policy number BA60J2377173 and \$84.00 to the insured for policy number BA60F3946038. Payments shall include interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum, calculated from the date the premium was received until the date the refund is made.
- 4. Within 90 days of the filed date of this Order, GuideOne shall pay \$88.00 to the insured for policy number BA60F3922077. Payment shall include interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum, calculated from the date the premium was received until the date the refund is made.
- 5. Within 90 days of the filed date of this Order, GuideOne shall pay \$1,014.00 to the insureds listed in Exhibit A of this Order. Payments shall include interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum, calculated from the date the premium was received until the date the refund is made.
  - 6. Within 90 days of the filed date of this Order, GuideOne shall pay \$11.00 to

the insured for policy number 01097020. Payment shall include interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum, calculated from the date the premium was received until the date the refund is made.

- 7. Within 90 days of the filed date of this Order, GuideOne shall pay \$381.00 to the insureds listed in Exhibit B of this Order. Payments shall include interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum, calculated from the date the premium was received until the date the refund is made.
- 8. Within 90 days of the filed date of this Order, GuideOne shall pay \$750.00 to the insureds listed in Exhibit C of this Order. Payments shall include interest at the rate of 10 percent per annum calculated from the date the premium was received until the date the refund is made.
- 9. Each payment made in accordance with Items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 above shall be accompanied by a letter to either the insured or claimant in a form approved by the Director. GuideOne shall list the payments, giving the name and address of each party paid, the amount of the payment, the amount of interest paid, and the date of payment, and shall provide this list to the Department, within 90 days of the filed date of this Order.
- 10. The Department shall be permitted, through authorized representatives, to verify that GuideOne has complied with all provisions of this Order.
- 11. GuideOne shall pay a civil penalty of \$9,000.00 to the Director for deposit in the State General Fund in accordance with A.R.S. §20-220(B). This civil penalty shall be provided to the Market Conduct Examinations Section of the Department prior to the filing of this Order.
- 12. The Report of Examination of the Market Conduct Affairs of GuideOne Mutual Insurance Company, dated June 9, 2000, including the letter submitted in

response to the Report of Examination, shall be filed with the Department after the Director has filed this Order. DATED at Phoenix, Arizona this\_ Director of Insurance 

#### **EXHIBIT A**

# **COMMERCIAL PACKAGE POLICIES**

# **APPLIED INCORRECT PROTECTION CLASS**

Policy Number	Policy Term	<u>Overcharge</u>
01033517	3/12/99-3/12/00	\$50.00
01104727	6/23/98-6/23/99	880.00*
01104727	6/23/99-6/23/00	39.00
01104727	6/23/00-6/23/01	<u>45.00</u>
		\$1,014.00

\*Includes premium overcharge for incorrect protection class and inadequate documentation to support IRPM that was incorrectly applied.

#### **EXHIBIT B**

# NO DOCUMENTATION IN THE POLICY FILE JUSTIFYING THE IRPM THAT WAS INCORRECTLY APPLIED BY THE COMPANY

Policy Number	Policy Term	<u>Overcharge</u>
06000555	12/14/99-00	\$298.00
01187271	2/12/00-01	83.00
	Total	\$381.00

# EXHIBIT C INADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION IN THE POLICY FILE JUSTIFYING THE IRPM MODIFICATION THAT WAS INCORRECTLY APPLIED BY THE COMPANY

Policy Number	Policy Term	<u>Overcharge</u>
01033517	3/12/00-01	\$39.00
01051772	2/19/00-01	58.00
01079036	5/14/00-01	9.00
01089956	2/4/00-01	68.00
01087895	9/15/99-00	64.00
01189492	6/1/00-01	229.00
01186903	1/26/00-01	90.00
01074553	9/10/99-00	35.00
01110394	10/05/99-00	36.00
01108896	10/1/99-00	122.00
		\$750.00

#### CONSENT TO ORDER

- GuideOne Mutual Insurance Company has reviewed the attached Consent Order.
- 2. GuideOne Mutual Insurance Company admits the jurisdiction of the Director of Insurance, State of Arizona, admits the foregoing Findings of Fact, and consents to the entry of the Conclusions of Law and Order.
- 3. GuideOne Mutual Insurance Company is aware of its right to a hearing, at which it may be represented by counsel, present evidence and cross-examine witnesses. GuideOne Mutual Insurance Company irrevocably waives its right to such notice and hearing and to any court appeals related to this Order.
- 4. GuideOne Mutual Insurance Company states that no promise of any kind or nature whatsoever was made to it to induce it to enter into this Order and that it has entered into this Order voluntarily.
- 5. GuideOne Mutual Insurance Company acknowledges that the acceptance of this Order by the Director of Insurance, State of Arizona, is solely to settle this matter against it and does not preclude any other agency or officer of this state or its subdivisions or any other person from any other civil or criminal proceedings, whether civil, criminal, or administrative, as may be appropriate now or in the future.

6.	Thomas	Ca	F	ivv	,	who	holds	the	office	of
Secret	ary		of	GuideOne	Мι	utual	Insurance	e Co	ompany,	is
authorized to	enter into this C	Order f	or it	and on its b	eha	ılf.				

GUIDEONE	MUTUAL	INSURANCE	COMPANY

By: The Jan

	COPY of the foregoing mailed/delivered
2	this <u>3rd</u> day of <u>April</u> 2001, to:
3	Sara Begley
4	Deputy Director Mary Butterfield
5	Assistant Director Consumer Affairs Division
6	Paul J. Hogan Chief Market Conduct Examiner
7	Market Conduct Examinations Section Deloris E. Williamson
8	Assistant Director Rates & Regulations Division
9	Alexandra Shafer Assistant Director
10	Life & Health Division Steve Ferguson
11	Assistant Director Financial Affairs Division
12	Nancy Howse
13	Chief Financial Examiner Terry Cooper
14	Manager Fraud Unit
15	
16	DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE 2910 North 44th Street, Second Floor
17	Phoenix, AZ 85018
18	
19	GUIDEONE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY Mr. Sam Waters, Assistant General Counsel
20	1111 Ashworth Road   West Des Moines, Iowa 50265-3538
21	
22	Currey Buston
23	
24	
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